

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A water-absorbent resin composition having discoloration resistance comprising a water-absorbent resin, an oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt, an aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent and an organic antioxidant.

2. (Original) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

3. (Currently Amended) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1 [[or 2]], wherein the amount of the aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

4. (Previously Presented) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of the organic antioxidant is 0.001 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

5. (Previously Presented) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfites, bisulfites, pyrosulfites, dithionites and nitrites.

6. (Previously Presented) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, and salts thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the organic antioxidant is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, erythorbic acids, gallic acids, protocatechuic acids, benzimidazoles and alkylated hydroxyanisoles.

8. (Previously Presented) An absorbent comprising the water-absorbent resin composition as defined in claim 1 and a hydrophilic fiber.

9. (Original) An absorbent article comprising the absorbent as defined in claim 8 interposed between a liquid-permeable sheet and a liquid-impermeable sheet.

10. (New) The water-absorbent resin composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein discoloration is not found according to a test for discoloration resistance, wherein said test for discoloration resistance comprises the steps of dry-blending 12 grams of a water-absorbent resin composition and 9 grams of disintegrated wooden pulp to give an absorbent, interposing the absorbent between a polyethylene air-through-type nonwoven fabric and a polyethylene sheet to give an absorbent article, allowing the resulting absorbent article to stand for 10 days in a thermohygrostat set at a temperature of $50^{\circ} \pm 2^{\circ} \text{C}$ and a relative humidity of $90 \pm 2\%$ and visually observing the water-absorbent resin in the internal of the absorbent article.

11. (New) The water-absorbent resin composition according to claim 2, wherein the amount of the aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent is 0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin.

12. (New) A water-absorbent resin composition having discoloration resistance comprising:

a water-absorbent resin,

0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin of an oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt,

0.01 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin of an aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent, and

0.001 to 5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the water-absorbent resin of an organic antioxidant;

wherein the oxygen-containing reducing inorganic salt is at least one member selected from the group consisting of sulfites, bisulfites, pyrosulfites, dithionites and nitrites;

the aminocarboxylic acid-based metal chelating agent is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid, hydroxyethylenediaminetriacetic acid, diethylenetriaminepentaacetic acid, triethylenetetraminehexaacetic acid, trans-1,2-diaminocyclohexanetetraacetic acid, and salts thereof; and

the organic antioxidant is at least one member selected from the group consisting of ascorbic acids, erythorbic acids, gallic acids, protocatechuic acids, benzimidazoles and alkylated hydroxyanisoles.